

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**Application Ranking Summary**

**G Tortoise WLFW**

<b>Program:</b>	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> G Tortoise WLFW		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
Healthy Plant & Animal Communities - Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the applicant implement practices which:	
1. a. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Support existing or new national or landscape initiatives that support State, National or tribal fish or wildlife plans such as: Working Lands for Wildlife	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. Benefit federally listed threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, fish or wildlife species of concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. d. Benefit State WHIP Plan (SWP) prioritized native habitat critical to a fish or wildlife species?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. e. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. f. Eradicate or control SWP prioritized noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. g. Benefit declining or important aquatic wildlife species prioritized in the SWP?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. h. Benefit SWP prioritized fish or wildlife species in forested areas?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. i. Establish habitat on pivot corners and irregular areas on agricultural land?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. j. Provide self-sustaining habitat for SWP prioritized fish and wildlife while reducing net carbon emissions or boosting carbon storage (e.g., warm season perennial grasses, trees or shrubs)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. k. Benefit migration and other movement corridors for SWP prioritized wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation - Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the applicant in the proposed project:	
2. a. Implement wildlife habitat practices scheduled in the Schedule or Plan of Operations (NRCS-CPA-1155) within the first two years of date of obligation of the agreement?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**State Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
Species Presence:	
1. a. Is there credible verification of species occurrence (for example, photos, Heritage Database, USFWS, NRCS or State fish and wildlife agency documentation)? This should not be taken to imply that a site visit is required.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Based upon available species occurrence data and information, can the target species reasonably be assumed to occur within the offered area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Distance to Known Populations:	
2. a. The offered area shares a common border with an area with known populations of the target species.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. The offered area is proximal to an area with a known population of the target species. Proximal means within the accepted normal species dispersal ability.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Focal Area	
3. Will 75% or more of the practices be located within the "Focal Area"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
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Priority and/or Suitable Soils present on area to be restored/enhanced: (Choose one. Points are not additive.)	
1. a. AT LEAST ONE of these “highly suitable” soils or soil associations is present on 25% of the area? (Alaga, Bassfield, Darco, Eustis, Lakeland, Latonia, Rattlesnake Forks, Rumford, Troup, Wadley)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. AT LEAST ONE of these “moderately and/or less suitable” soils or soil associations is present on 50% the area? (Bama, Baxterville, Benndale, Bigbee, Boykin, Brantley, Bruno, Cahaba, Cascilla, Heidel, Iuka, Jena, Lucedale, Lucy, McLaurin, Newhan, Nugent, Okeelala, Olla, Ruston, Shubuta, Smithdale, St. Lucie, Suffolk)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Is at least one of the following practices planned to be applied on at least 40% of the area to be restored/enhanced within either the Gopher Tortoise Designated Focal OR Core Areas as shown on the Working Lands for Wildlife Program map? 315, 338/394,612, 327, 666, (Choose one. Points are not additive.)	
2. a. Are areas within the Core Area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Are areas within the Focal Area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Will longleaf pine be planted (on at least 50% of the total acres established to Practice 612: Planting Trees/Shrubs) on a suitable soils in a county within declining native longleaf pine habitat zone (see map in FY12 MS WHIP Manual) AND within either the Gopher Tortoise Designated Focal OR Core Areas as shown on the Working Lands for Wildlife Program map? (Choose one. Points are not additive.)	
3. a. Are areas within the Core Area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Are areas within the Focal Area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Will the Practice 666,along with 338/394: Prescribed Burning/Firebreaks be implemented within the historic longleaf pine distribution? Offered acres must also be located within either the Gopher Tortoise Designated Focal OR Core Areas as shown on the Working Lands for Wildlife Program map. (Choose one. Points are not additive.)	
4. a. Are areas within the Core Area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Are areas within the Focal Area?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Control/Eradicate Invasive/Exotic Vegetation:	
5. Will invasive/exotic vegetation be controlled/eradicated with herbicides? Offered acres must have noxious or invasive species present - Practices 314, 315, or 666.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
QVM to control undesirable hardwood brush:	
6. Will Practice 666 - QVM in Pine Stands OR Heavy Chemical Ground Control of Competitive Woody Understory Species be used to control undesirable hardwood brush in open, mature pine stands?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Create/enhance early successional gopher tortoise habitat:	
7. Will any of these practices be implemented to create/enhance early successional gopher tortoise habitat? (422 - Establish/Enhance Wildlife Transition Zones/Corridors; 647 - Light Strip Disking; 327- Establish/Enhance Wildlife/Pollinator Habitat; 655 - Forest Harvest Trails and Landings)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Forest stand improvement to create/enhance gopher tortoise habitat:	
8. Will the practice 666 - Forest Stand Improvement be implemented to create/enhance gopher tortoise habitat with an open canopy (no more than 70% crown closure) and moderate to low basal area (less than or equal to 70 sq. ft. per acre)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Lands will be restored and managed:	
9. Will applicant agree that the lands to be restored/enhanced for the Working Lands for Wildlife Program CAN AND WILL BE RESTORED AND MANAGED in order to contribute to the protection or recovery of gopher "tortoise according to a recommended conservation plan under a Safe Harbor Agreement with the USFWS"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Share information:	
10. Will applicant agree to share information with the Mississippi Natural Heritage Program database about the location of burrows that currently exist or potentially will be created due to restoration/enhancement activities of this program? The data base is protected information for data collection only and has no public access. Sharing the locations does NOT give the state the right to access the property without permission. However sharing the locations will aid in estimating growth and health of the tortoise populations, potentially leading to the protection or recovery of gopher tortoise.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

**Land Use:**

Resource Concerns	Practices
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**Ranking Score**

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues:

National Issues:

**Final Ranking Score:**

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

<b>NRCS Representative:</b>	<b>Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:</b>
<b>Signature Date:</b>	<b>Signature Date:</b>